Merger of BPL Communications and Birla-Tata-AT&T combine

1458. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the merger of BPL Communications and Birla-Tata- AT&T combine resulting in a Rs. 9990 crore entity;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the above entity will be country's largest cellular operator with 25 per cent market share;

(c) if so, whether any investigation has been made into the merger from the stand point of collusive and anti-competitive practice;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No such noitice/petition has been received either from the Court or from the companies in this regard.

(b) to (e) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Vitamin cartel

1459. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)whether Government are aware of the international "Vitamin Cartel' in which several leading and sophisticated manufacturers of the world were investigated and prosecuted in the US, Austrailia, Canada, etc. for various anti-competitive behaviour ranging from fixing prices to allocating markets to bid-rigging;

(b)whether Government have investigated the impact of this global cartel on India;

(c)if so, the details thereof;

(d)if not, the reasons therefor;

(e)whether Government have received a request for investigation with supporting documentation from the Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) in this context; and